



Enclosure 2a
August 15, 2017

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
June 20, 2017

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Chair McConaghy welcomed everyone to the June 20, 2017, meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, noted for the record that Member Martinez would not be joining the meeting, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Present: Daniel McConaghy, *Colby Anderson, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, *Thalia Philippe, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

Absent: Marta Martinez

[*Ex-officio, non-voting members]

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the meeting of June 20, 2017

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

YEAS: 5

NAYS: 0

[Council Member Callahan arrived at 5:32 p.m.; Council Member Beretta arrived at 5:33 p.m.; and Board Chair Cottam arrived at 5:35 p.m.]

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2a. Minutes of the May 9, 2017, Council Meeting

On a motion duly made by Karin Forbes and seconded by Joyce Stevos , it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the May 9, 2017, Council Meeting

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Karin Forbes, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

YEAS: 4

NAYS: 0

[Member Gaines had to recuse herself from the vote, as she did not attend the May 9, 2017, Meeting of the Council]

[Council Member Callahan arrived at 5:32 p.m.; Council Member Beretta arrived at 5:33 p.m.; and Board Chair Cottam arrived at 5:35 p.m.]

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair McConaghy reported that no one had signed up to speak at Open Forum.

4. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Wagner began his report by informing the Council that the Draft ESSA Plan has been posted on RIDE's website, for the purpose of public review and comment, until the end of June. The Governor will review the Plan for 30 days as required by Federal Statute and the Plan will be submitted to the Federal Government by the September 18, deadline. Preliminary feedback to the States that submitted their plans by the early April deadline were mainly around overall goal-setting not being ambitious enough and the need for more universal standards.

Next, Commissioner Wagner informed the Council that since the last discussion, RIDE's budget has been reduced by an additional \$350,000, bringing the total agency reduction to \$1.7M. In addition, the State Department of Administration was just given an undesignated cut of \$25M, which some or all State agencies may need to absorb. The 2019 budget discussion, which is scheduled to be brought to the Council in August and submitted to the State by the September 30 deadline, might not occur until the 2018 budget is reconciled.

Commissioner Wagner also reported that the Facilities Audit Report, which was conducted over the past year, is almost complete with a public release to take place mid-summer. Preliminary data has been shared with school districts and discussions will begin to address the necessary improvements over time.

Commissioner Wagner ended his report by announcing that on June 28, the Superintendents' Association and the Principals' Association are sponsoring a joint professional development conference. During the conference, there will be a joint announcement on a leadership initiative between industry-partners, superintendents, principals, and RIDE. This initiative is the culmination of conversations over the past two years on the culture of leadership through the empowerment of teachers, administration, and staff, as a central aspect of striving to improving education.

At this time, Council Chair McConaghy and Board Chair Cottam recognized Council Members Forbes and Stevos, whose terms have ended, for their wisdom, dedication and years of service as members of the Council and the Board of Education.

Chair McConaghy also welcomed Thalia Philippe as the newly-elected student representative replacing Colby Anderson.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Proposed Charter School Authorization and Engagement Process

Brian Darrow, RIDE's Director of the Office of College and Career Readiness, shared a draft proposal that was developed in response to feedback from the charter sector about having opportunities to provide information directly to Council members so they can be as informed as possible when making important decisions on charters.

He explained that RIDE worked with the League of Charter Schools and came up with two new systems, which will serve to increase communication between the Council and charter school leaders:

- enable and facilitate open house visits when Council members can visit and see the schools in action. RIDE's only role would be to work with the schools to identify visit dates and to ensure that open meeting laws are not violated.
- build a portion of time during meetings (perhaps during work sessions) for charter school leaders to directly answer questions from Council members.

Council members praised the effort and asked that information on community support and fiscal impact statements be shared with the Council as early on in the process as possible. Commissioner Wagner responded that fiscal impact information will be provided to Council members and the public prior to the public review and comment period, so that it can be part of the public discourse. Council members discussed expanding the same accountability processes to traditional public schools, particularly the low-performing schools.

b. FY 2019 Capital Budget

Mark Dunham, RIDE's Director of Finance, explained that this is a five-year plan and noted that the General Assembly has not yet passed the 2018 capital budget. He explained that the only new project in the plan is the inclusion of money for maintaining emergency systems, security, and meeting fire safety codes at the RI School for the Deaf. The other remaining projects include HVAC processes at Davies and The Met, and the wireless classroom initiative and the upgrading of technology at RIDE.

c. Recommendation of New Members to the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School Board of Trustees

Commissioner Wagner reminded Council members that appointing members to the Boards of Trustees at the state schools and the Central Falls school district from recommendations of the Commissioner, falls under the purview of the Council. He explained that the method for selecting new members to serve as trustees has changed in that RIDE will be more involved in the recruitment and selection process. Today's recommendations (David Chenevert, Rosemary Costigan, Heather Hudson, and Heather Singleton) are a diverse group to fill four of the seven vacancies on the Williams M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School Board of Trustees.

Member Stevos expressed that when filling the remaining spots, RIDE should look at increasing diversity among the nominees as it's an important factor to represent the Davies community.

d. RIDE's Organizational Chart

Commissioner Wagner introduced RIDE's new organizational chart highlighting that the agency will move from a two Deputy Commissioner system back to one Deputy Commissioner, who will focus on teaching and learning. Additional changes include merging the data team with the IT team under one director as opposed to two directors, and having all program offices report to the Deputy for Teaching and Learning.

6. ACTION ITEMS**6a1. Approval of new members to the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School**

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the recommendation of David Chenevert, Rosemary Costigan, Heather Hudson, and Heather Singleton, to the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School Board of Trustees, as presented.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

6a2. Approval of RIDE's Organizational Chart

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves RIDE's Organizational Chart, as presented.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines, Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

8. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Jo Eva Gaines, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education adjourns.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan,
Barbara Cottam, Karin Forbes, Jo Eva Gaines,
Lawrence Purtill, and Joyce Stevos

NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.